

## Evaluation Results

**Project:** PTDC/CLE-LLI/122193/2010

**Title:** Teatro português do século XVII: uma biblioteca digital

**FCT's decision** (*Artigo 11º* do Regulamento)

**Recommended for Funding** - Total Funding: € 88.985,00

## Evaluation Panel Statement and Rating

**Criterion A** - Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international standpoint, including but not limited to: i) Relevance and originality of the project proposed (based on the state-of-the art in a determined scientific area and previous work done by the proposing team); ii) Methodology adopted for carrying out the project; iii) Expected results and their contribution to scientific and technological knowledge; iv) Resulting publications and articles; v) Contribution towards promoting and disseminating science and technology; vi) Production of knowledge that can be incorporated into and applied to the business sector.

- **Rating:** Excellent
- **Comments:** This is a very important project: the general consensus is that theatre in Portugal barely existed between Gil Vicente and the nineteenth century, and it certainly did not acquire the tradition or influence of the theatre in Spain. Yet the bilingual practices of many writers in Portugal (including even Camões) may have served to obscure whatever activity there was. The PI's lengthy enumeration of the dramatists active in the seventeenth century, whether in Castilian or in Portuguese and the geographical spread of the locations where the manuscripts are housed, makes it essential that something of this lost tradition be recovered. The previous experience alluded to in the proposal on a similar project relating to sixteenth-century theatre makes the case strongly for this process to be continued by the same team and with similar methods. The PI's extensive CV (indicating positions as a government advisor, as well as his outstanding academic record) makes him the ideal person to lead such a project, and his stated intention to base any paper editions of the works concerned on the digital version (rather than vice-versa) is a healthy and productive adaptation of contemporary technology to older culture. It is conceivable that some aspects of this project could lead to substantial popular dissemination and equally to commercial success. While the stated aim of recovering all seventeenth-century dramas may not be absolutely feasible, the key ambition - to produce a substantial, comprehensive and systematic collection of dramas from this period - is most certainly possible.

**Criterion B** - Scientific merit of the research team, including but not limited to: i) scientific productivity of the team (ranging from references to publications and citations in published works as used by the basic and engineering sciences, to performance and artistic work in the arts or monographs and books in the humanities and social sciences); ii) Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project (team configuration, Principal Investigator's qualifications); iii) Ability to involve young researchers in training; iv) Availability of the team and non duplication of objectives in relation to other projects underway; v) The degree of internationalization of the team; vi) Degree of success in previous projects in relation to the Principal Investigator (PI) (in the case of young PIs, this requirement must be assessed based on the potential revealed by the PIs curriculum vitae in the absence of prior concrete accomplishments); vii) Level of commitment of any companies participating in the project (if applicable).

- **Rating:** Excellent
- **Comments:** The PI has put together an impressive team, with substantial expertise in both Portuguese and Spanish theatre, as well as one or two participants with substantial practical dramatic experience. There are three distinguished consultants named. The recruitment of two additional research assistants to the team will facilitate a focus on day-to-day routine work and enable the core members of the team to progress with the more specialist tasks (but see below for HR comments). In this sense the composition of the team is impressive. The panel is not aware of significant overlap between this project and any other underway, and the PI's previous experience in the sixteenth-century project alluded to above will be of immense benefit to its successful running. The methodology proposed is clear and extremely thorough, with attention paid to thematic content, form and linguistic expression within the plays collated.

**Criterion C** - Feasibility of the plan of work and reasonableness of the budget, including but not limited to: i) organization of the project in terms of the proposed objectives and resources (duration, equipment, size of the team, institutional and management resources); ii) institutional resources of the participating entities, in particular of the Principal Contractor (PC) (technical-scientific, organizational and managerial and, when appropriate, co-funding capacity on the part of companies).

- **Rating:** Very Good
- **Comments:** The plan of work seems very thorough and well organised (the timeline chart provided along with the proposal is very helpful in clarifying how things will work). The management structure described is in fact simpler than the explanation given at section 3.2.4a might suggest, since all members of the team are involved in the first two tasks, and only two are not involved in the final task of computational processing. In this sense it should be reasonably easy for the PI to keep track of the progress of the project and ensure that it remains on schedule. The budgetary proposals have been subjected to some revision (see below). The estimates of total work hours required for individual tasks seem reasonable.

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**Criterion D** - Contribution to the body of knowledge in this field and improvement of competence of the scientific community in general, including but not limited to: i) Contribution to the body of knowledge and competence of the National Science and Technology System (expected effects and results).

- **Rating:** Excellent
- **Comments:** There is no doubt that this project would form a significant contribution to knowledge and understanding of Portuguese theatre between the Renaissance and the modern period. While some of the works alluded to in the Executive Summary are available to specialists, even these are very difficult to access, and some long overdue attention is required to this neglected period in national cultural history. The scholarly material intended to surround the texts themselves will also be important, but the web presence will perhaps be the most important contribution of all. We would urge the team to give it significant publicity outside the academic community as well as within it.

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**Overall Rating:** Excellent

**Overall Comments:** This is an excellent project, with the potential to make a major contribution to our understanding of an unnecessarily neglected period in Portuguese literary history. The intended outputs are strong. We would recommend additional input from colleagues elsewhere in Europe or in the USA, although it should be recognised that the prime expertise in this field is still within the Iberian Peninsula. As such, the project will ensure a significant contribution to national and international understanding of this important aspect of Portuguese culture.

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**Panel Recommended Funding** [1]: € 88.985,00

[1] According to budget availability, the total funding recommended by FCT might be different from the one recommended by the panel.

**Comments:** The budget is adequate but the costs for human resources and service acquisitions have been reduced, as explained below.

**Panel Recommended Funding for Human Resources:** € 52.914,00

**Comments:** It is not clear that two bolseiros are indispensable for a full 36 months each. From tasks described it seems possible to do with 2 x 24 months. Also the office supplies, except for the microfilms, were reduced as well as the cost for the web site production.